

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 04192 071734Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03  
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-14 AID-05 MCT-02 /080 W  
-----002699 071737Z /11

O R 071705Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
RO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7715  
INFO USICA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS MANAGUA 4192

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PIN, OAS, VE, NU  
SUBJECT: SOMOZA PRESS CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 5, 1978

1. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON UPWARDS TO 100 FOREIGNCORRESPONDENTS  
ATTENDED A PRESS CONFERENCE CALLED BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA.

2. IN A BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT THE PRESIDENT ATTACKED  
VENEZUELA FOR INTERVENTION IN NICARAGUA. "I DENOUNCE  
BEFORE AMERICA AND THE WORLD THE ACTION OF PRESIDENT PEREZ  
WITHOUT BASIS OR PRECEDENCE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW NOR  
INTERAMERICAN LAW. I MAKE HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
BLOOD BATH HE WILL PROVOKE IN MY COUNTRY BY HIS ACTS."  
AT THE SAME TIME HE CALLED UPON THE MEMBERS OF THE  
INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM TO NOT LEND THEMSELVES "TO THESE  
POLITICAL MANIPULATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA  
THAT VIOLATE THE PRINCIPLE AND SPIRIT OF NON-INTERVENTION  
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THAT HAS GOVERNED AMERICA."

3. MOST OF THE GROUND COVERED BY THE PRESIDENT DURING  
THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD HAD BEEN GONE OVER  
PREVIOUSLY. THE PRESIDENT DENIED THAT HE HAD SAID THAT  
PRESIDENT CARTER WAS SURROUNDED BY LEFTISTS AND COMMUNISTS.  
HE SAID UPI HAD QUOTED RAYMOND MOLINA AND CALLED HIM A

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, WHICH HE IS NOT.

4. THE PRESIDENT AGAIN REPEATED THAT HE WOULD STAY IN POWER UNTIL 1981, THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER THE STRIKE AS SERIOUS AS THE ONE OF LAST FEBRUARY AND THAT "OF COURSE" THE COUNTRY HAD INTERNATIONAL DEBTS. "NICARAGUA LOST 500 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE EARTHQUAKE. HOW CAN THESE BRILLIANT ECONOMISTS EXPLAIN THAT THE COUNTRY CAN BE RECONSTRUCTED WITHOUT DEBTS?"

5. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT WITH WHOM IN THE OPPOSITION HE WOULD DIALOG, HE REPLIED "THAT IS A VERY GOOD QUESTION" AND POINTED OUT THAT THE OPPOSITION HAS NO STRUCTURE OR ORGANIZATION, THAT THERE WERE SELF-APPOINTED LEADERS WITH NO PARTY TO BACK THEM UP. ASKED IF HE WAS PLANNING TO HELP THE OPPOSITION GET ORGANIZED, THE PRESIDENT SAID "YES, WE HAVE CONTEMPLATED A LAW THAT WOULD GIVE THE OPPOSITION AND OTHER PARTIES CERTAIN FINANCIAL HELP FROM THE GOVERNMENT SO THEY CAN ORGANIZE."

6. ASKED ABOUT THE ARREST OF INDE VICE-PRESIDENT TERAN, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT IT HAD OCCURRED "BY MISTAKE". HE SAID 135 PERSONS WERE CURRENTLY UNDER ARREST FOR THROWING BOMBS, MAKING BARRICADES AND THREATENING OWNERS OF ESTABLISHMENTS TO CLOSE.  
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## Message Attributes

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